GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:119
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
FREEDOM FIGHTER PENSION
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bestow freedom fighter status on those who participated in the Goa liberation struggle during 1955-56 as reported in the Indian Express dated February 4, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of persons likely to be benefited thereby and the total expenditure to be incurred as a result thereof;

(d) the criteria/guidelines formulated for the purpose;

(e) whether the Government propose to revise the existing guidelines for conferring the freedom fighter status;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government propose to consider similar requests from other parts of the country; and

(h) if so, the details in the regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERS(PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 119 DUE ANSWER ON 25.2.2003.

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of India have decided to grant Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension to the participants of second phase of Goa Liberation Movement (1954-55) who had been granted, by 1.8.2002, the freedom fighters pension by the State Governments of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Goa.

(c) The total number of persons likely to be benefited thereby is approximately 3500. The approximate expenditure per annum will be Rs. 16.13 crores for Pension and Dearness Relief and Rs. 7 crores on issue of railway passes.

(d): The Satyagrahis of phase II of Goa Liberation Movement (1954-55) were not arrested, tried and punished by the Portuguese Government but were physically thrown back from Goa into the adjoining Indian territories during 1954-55.Hence they did not qualify for the minimum six months of imprisonment/externment/internment, etc. to make them eligible for pension under the Swantantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme 1980.However, such persons had been recognised as freedom fighters by the States of Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Goa and were reportedly drawing pension from the respective State Governments. It has been decided to relaxcondition of minimum six months of imprisonment/externment/internment, etc. for such freedom fighters and grant them or their eligible dependents, pension under the SSS Pension Scheme 1980 provided they had actually been sanctioned State pension by the concerned State Governments by 1.8.2002 on account of their participation in the Goa Liberation Movement (1954-55)

(e): The relaxation is only in respect of freedom fighters of phase II of Goa Liberation Movement and the Government do not propose to revise the existing guidelines for conferring the freedom fighters status to other freedom fighters.

(f): Question does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g): No, Sir.

(h): Question does not arise in view of (g) above.